

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Please cancel claims 5-9 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend the claims as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) A molecular manipulator, comprising:  
a light-sensitive compound, said light-sensitive compound comprising:  
two arms, each of said two arms comprising an azo double bond; and  
a moiety located between the two arms, including a double bond, that  
wherein said light-sensitive compound changes a *cis-trans*  
configuration of the double bond in response to illumination by light of a selected  
wavelength; and  
a probe to which the light-sensitive molecule is attached.
2. (Original) The molecular manipulator of claim 1, wherein the probe  
comprises one of a tip and a line of a scanned-proximity probe microscope.
3. (Original) The molecular manipulator of claim 1, wherein the probe  
comprises one of silicon, silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, and titanium oxide.
4. (Previously Presented) The molecular manipulator of claim 1, wherein the  
light-sensitive compound is an azo compound.
- 5-9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) The molecular manipulator of claim [[8]]1, wherein  
~~each of the two arms includes an azo double bond having the same cis-trans~~

~~configuration,~~ said azo double bond of each of said two arms has a configuration,  
which changes between a *cis*-configuration and a *trans*-configuration when  
illuminated by the light of the selected wavelength, and  
wherein said configuration of said double bond of each of said two arms  
changes simultaneously such that said configuration of said double bond of each of  
said two arms is the same.

11. (Currently Amended) The molecular manipulator of claim [[5]]1, wherein each of the two arms includes a first end, which is bonded to the moiety, and a second end, which includes a functional group, R.

12. (Previously Presented) The molecular manipulator of claim 11, wherein the functional group, R, is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl, a haloalkyl, an aryl, an alcohol, an ether, an amine, an aldehyde, a ketone, a carboxylic acid, an ester, and an amide.

13. (Currently Amended) The molecular manipulator of claim [[5]]1, wherein the moiety includes a functional group, which covalently bonds to the probe.

14. (Previously Presented) The molecular manipulator of claim 13, wherein the functional group is selected from the group consisting of a sulfide, a thiol, and an isonitrile.

15. (Original) The molecular manipulator of claim 13, wherein the probe is coated by a coating, to which the functional group of the moiety covalently bonds.

16. (Currently Amended) The molecular manipulator of claim 15, wherein the coating comprises a metal coating ~~[[is]]~~ selected from the group consisting of gold, palladium, and platinum.

17. (Original) The molecular manipulator of claim 15, wherein the coating comprises one of trichlorosilane and trialkoxysilane, and the probe comprises a conductive metal oxide.

18. (Currently Amended) The molecular manipulator of claim ~~[[5]]~~1, wherein each of the two arms comprises a different length.

19-30. (Canceled)